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Pentecost Band India

Pentecost Band of India

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Asbury Theological Seminary
Special Collections Department
Manuscripts Collection

The Papers of the Pentecost Bands of India

(Microfilm)

ARC1010 Reel 13

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The Papers of the Pentecost Bands of India

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Introduction

The Pentecost Bands of India Papers are the records of three Pentecost Bands of India from 1897 to 1949. The journals come from Raj Nandgaon (1897-1905), Gondia (1899-1905), and Dondi Lohara (1899-1949). Each mission station was opened in the year recorded, but records do not document the entire history of each station. The Dondi Lohara station is most carefully documented, with only a few years missing from the noted dates. Each journal is an ongoing documentation of the activities and personnel of each station. Also included in journal one are statistical charts of Indians contacted by Pentecostal Bands as concerned language, literacy, and religion from 1930-1931.

The collection was microfilmed and is contained on one roll. The original condition of the papers was fair with some pages being very brittle and damaged from insects. They were microfilmed to preserve the original condition of the papers. The journals were filmed as they were recorded by the secretaries of the Pentecost Bands. The original papers are held in the Marston Memorial Historical Center, Free Methodist Headquarters, Winona Lake, IN.

Agency History

The Pentecost Bands of India was one of the missionary arms of the larger Pentecost Bands of the World. Pentecost Bands was officially recognized in 1890 by the Free Methodist General Conference. Vivian Dake, raised in Oregon, IL; educated in the Free Methodist Seminary (North Chili, NY) and Rochester University (Rochester, NY); was the founder of the Pentecost Bands. Upon returning to Iowa after his schooling, he

involved himself in evangelism. He began to enlist Christians in groups, or bands, to go into small towns to open new churches and preach the gospel. It grew out from Iowa to include bands in Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. It was administrated under the Free Methodist Church from 1890. Its headquarters moved to Indianapolis. The bands began to reach out to a needy world in the late 1800s, including work in India and Egypt.

On an extended trip to Europe and Africa, Vivian Dake died of malaria and was buried in Sierra Leone in 1892. Following his death there was a succession of leaders including Thomas H. Nelson (1882-1915), Lewis Glenn (1915-1916), George Bula (1916-1920), Forrest B. Whistler (1916-1935), Otto H. Nater (1935-1939), and Leroy Bula (1939-1950). The confident and aggressive evangelistic nature of the bands was undermined during the administrations of Nelson and Glenn. George Bula restored confidence but the original evangelistic fervor was never restored. In 1950, younger officers began to get new ideas of leadership, costs of operation increased, available personnel declined, and the financial base from other independent mission groups also declined. This led to the need to seek out a larger organization which would be willing to undertake the work of the bands, both in the US and abroad. This was accomplished in January 1959 when the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Marion, IN allowed the Pentecost bands (or Missionary Bands as they had changed their name to in 1925) to merge wit their denomination. This included mission work in India, where they had established an orphanage and a facility for caring for victims of Hansen's disease; Japan; and Jamaica, West Indies, where a training school for Christian workers had been established.

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Box/Inventory of Microfilming

Frame #	Title	Date
5	Journal #1 Raj Nandgaon Station	9/28/1897 to 11/18/1905

14	“””(opening of the station)	1898
37	“””	1899
68	“””	1900
106	“””	1901
158	“””	1902
207	“””	1903
247	“””	1904
271	“””	1905
292	Statistical charts pertaining to Indians contacted (language, literacy, religion, etc)	1930-1931
300	Journal #2 Gondia Station	8/25/1899 to 8/13/1905
301	“”” (opening of station)	1899
307	“””	1900
330	“””	1901
353	“””	1902
366	“””	1903
376	“””	1904
399	“””	1905
411	Journal #3 Dondi Lohara Station	11/27/1899 to 9/29/1949
412	“””	1899
417	“””	1900
431	“””	1901
445	“””	1902
460	“””	1903
467	“””	1904
477	“””	1905
487	“””	1906
497	“””	1907
503	“””	1908
509	“””	1909
514	“””	1910
524	“””	1911
534	“””	1912
540	“””	1913
543	“””	1914
544	“””	1915
545	“””	1916
546	“””	1919
548	“””	1920
550	“””	1921
553	“””	1922
555	“””	1926
556	“””	1947-1948
557	“””	1949